

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AF-06 EA-07 NEA-10 DLOS-04 OES-03 OFA-01 EB-07

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DHCLARE:JM

APPROVED BY ARA:HARYAN

ARA/CEN:DLAZAR

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R 302325Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELIZE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T STATE 233078

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, GT, BH

SUBJECT: BELIZE DISPUTE: ROGERS/MOLINA MEETING

1. DURING TRIP TO NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 24 ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS ARRANGED MEETING WITH GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA. DAVID LAZAR (ARA/CEN) AND JORGE SKINNER-KLEE (GUATEMALAN DELEGATION) ALSO PARTICIPATED. HOUR-LONG DISCUSSION CENTERING ON BELIZE ISSUE WAS CORDIAL ALTHOUGH MOLINA DID NOT APPEAR COMPLETELY RELAXED.

2. GUATEMALANS NOW ANTICIPATE BELIZE ISSUE WILL ARISE IN SECOND HALF NOVEMBER DURING DEBATE ON ITEM 23 OF FOURTH COMMITTEE AGENDA. IF RESOLUTION CAME TO VOTE FOR FIRST TIME AT THE UNGA GUATEMALANS HOPED IT WOULD CALL FOR SECRET

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CONTINUED BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. NAC-TYPE RESOLUTION WAS

UNACCEPTABLE. GOG CONTENTS THAT PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY TAKES PRIORITY OVER QUOTE SELF-DETERMINATION UNQUOTE ISSUE.

3. SKINNER-KLEE SAID UKPERMREP RICHARD HAD PROMISED UK WOULD USE INFLUENCE TO KEEP NEGOTIATIONS OPEN AND TO SHAPE MODERATE RESOLUTION--BUT UK COULD NOT CONTROL FINAL WORDING. RICHARD'S STATEMENT QUOTE LET'S WAIT UNTIL THE UNGA IS OVER AND THEN PICK UP THE PIECES UNQUOTE WAS

DESCRIBED BY MOLINA AS QUOTE ALARMING UNQUOTE; SKINNER-KLEE FEARED THEY (PRESUMABLY THE QUOTE DOVES UNQUOTE) WOULD LOSE CONTROL INTERNALLY SHOULD GUATEMALA QUOTE BE RAKED OVER THE COALS AT UN UNQUOTE. (MR. ROGERS COMMENTED THAT CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH LOSS OF CONTROL MIGHT POSE GREAT DIFFICULTIES FOR USG AND WOULD BE QUOTE MOST REGRETTABLE UNQUOTE.)

4. MOLINA MENTIONED JAMAICAN DUDLEY THOMPSON'S QUOTE ROUNABOUT UNQUOTE REMARKS ON BELIZE DURING UNGA SPEECH. ROGERS COMMENTED THAT HE HAD TOLD THOMPSON THAT WHILE US LUCKILY WAS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED WE WOULD REGRET EMERGENCE OF INFLAMMATORY UN RESOLUTION OR INCREASED DIVISIVENESS OVER ISSUE.

5. SKINNER-KLEE STRESSED THAT SECURITY WAS REAL GUATEMALAN ISSUE. ALSO GUATEMALANS FEARED TERRITORIAL SEAS CONCEPT APPLIED STRICTLY BY NEIGHBORING BELIZE AND HONDURAS WOULD SQUEEZE OUT GUATEMALA. ROGERS RAISED CARIBBEAN CONCEPT OF CONDOMINIUM LAW OF THE SEAS KNOWN AS QUOTE MATRIARCHAL UNQUOTE SEAS APPROACH. GUATEMALANS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN IDEA WHICH NEW TO THEM.

6. GUATEMALANS DESCRIBED RESORT TO ICJ AS QUOTE LAST BARRICADE UNQUOTE. GUATEMALA WAS SUPPORTING MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA ON SPANISH SAHARA CASE BECAUSE THEIR APPROACH WAS TO SETTLE TERRITORIAL QUESTION BEFORE ISSUE OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

7. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING TALK, GUATEMALANS PRESSED
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US TO TAKE MORE ACTIVE ROLE. RESPECTING UN RESOLUTION, ROGERS SAID THAT WHILE USG OBVIOUSLY WAS FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE, WE COULD MAKE ONLY MODEST CONTRIBUTION TO SHAPING UN RESOLUTION ON SUBJECT SINCE THIS WOULD PUT US BETWEEN FRIENDS, GUATEMALANS AND JAMAICANS. REGARDING STRONG AND REPEATED GUATEMALAN REQUEST FOR US MEDIATION, WE DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF COMING IN AT LAST MINUTE BY SUPPORTING OR ENDORSING SOLUTION ALREADY

REACHED, BUT WE STATED USG COULD NOT TAKE PART IN ANY-
THING THAT LOOKED LIKE AN IMPOSED SOLUTION. SKINNER-KLEE
RESPONDED THAT ANY SOLUTION WOULD HAVE TO BE IMPOSED ON
SOMEONE.

8. MEMCON BEING POUCHED. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE233078
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DHCLARE:JM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750340-0096
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975094/aaaaacqv.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELIZE DISPUTE: ROGERS/MOLINA MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, GT, BH, US, (MOLINA ORANTES, ADOLFO), (ROGERS, WILLIAM D), (LAZAR, DAVID), (SKINNERKLEE, JORGE)
To: GUATEMALA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006